

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07
IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04
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O 091613Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3883
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

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USOECD

PASS: CEA, TREAS, FRB

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD, ECON
SUBJECT: JUNE 14-15 MEETING OF ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
(EPC): ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF EPC WORKING PARTY II
ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

REF: OECD 16757 (NOTAL)

1. AT JUNE 14-15 PLENARY MEETING, EPC IS SCHEDULED TO
ELECT NEW CHAIRMAN OF WP2 (DEALING WITH ISSUES OF
ECONOMIC GROWTH) TO SUCCEED SKANLAND (NORWAY) WHO HAS
RECENTLY RESIGNED FROM THAT POSITION. MISSION UNDER-
STANDS FROM OECD SECRETARIAT THAT U.K. HAS PROPOSED
IAN BYATT (HMTREASURY) AS SKANLAND'S SUCCESSOR, WHILE
NORWEGIANS HAVE PUT FORWARD PETTER JAKOB BJERVA (HEAD
OF CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS AND FORMER MINISTER OF
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FINANCE). GON AND U.K. HAVE BOTH INDICATED THAT THEY
ARE NOT "RUNNING" FOR CHAIRMANSHIP AND THAT THEY WOULD
PREFER TO HAVE "GROUND SWELL" DEVELOP IN FAVOR OF THEIR
RESPECTIVE CANDIDATES.

2. SECRETARIAT HAS INFORMED MISSION THAT SMALL COUNTRY
SENTIMENT APPEARS TO FAVOR BJERVA. HOWEVER, NO CLEAR

PREFERENCE HAS YET EMERGED FOR EITHER CANDIDATE. IF SITUATION REMAINS VAGUE UP UNTIL TIME OF EPC PLENARY, SECRETARIAT IS LIKELY TO ASK SKANLAND TO STAY ON AS CHAIRMAN THROUGH END OF YEAR. SKANLAND HAS INDICATED INFORMALLY TO SECRETARIAT THAT HE IS WILLING TO DO SO. THUS, SHOULD SECRETARIAT EXERCISE THIS OPTION, ELECTION OF SKANLAND'S SUCCESSOR WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL NOVEMBER, 1977 EPC PLENARY MEETING.

3. COMMENT: WHILE MISSION VIEW WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY COMMENTS FROM LONDON AND OSLO, WE SEE PRESENTLY NO REASON TO OPT DEFINITELY FOR BYATT OR BJERVA. BYATT HAS CAPABLY REPRESENTED U.K. IN WP2; HOWEVER, MAINTENANCE OF SMALL COUNTRY CHAIRMAN OF WP2 MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FOR PURPOSES OF BALANCE, GIVEN THAT CHAIRMANSHIP OF EPC, WP3 AND WP4 WILL BE RETAINED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM BIG 7 COUNTRIES. (CIRCUMSTANCE THAT SMALL COUNTRY SUPPORT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IN ELECTING CEA CHAIRMAN SCHULTZE TO EPC CHAIRMANSHIP TO SUCCEED SIR DOUGLAS ALLEN ALSO FIGURES IN OUR THINKING IN THIS RESPECT.) THUS, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. REMAIN NEUTRAL ON WP2 CHAIRMANSHIP QUESTION, UNLESS EVALUATION BY LONDON AND OSLO REVEALS COMPELLING REASON TO FAVOR ONE OF THE CANDIDATES OVER THE OTHER.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS JUNE 13; (B) FOR LONDON: WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S EVALUATION OF BYATT'S SUITABILITY FOR WP2 CHAIRMANSHIP; (C) FOR OSLO: WOULD APPRECIATE SIMILAR EVALUATION OF BJERVA.

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